

Applicants respectfully submit that this response addresses all points of rejection raised in the Office Action, and applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

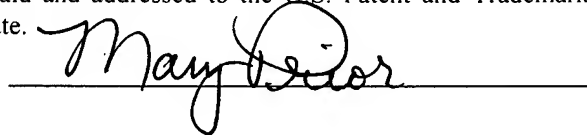
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on the below date.

Date: January 7, 2003



SYS:mgp